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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; AL GORE; CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS;
ARGENTINA AT THE IMF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY; THE DEAL BETWEEN THE TWO
KOREAS; 10/16/07

11. SUMMARY STATEMENT

Weekend international stories include the impact of the Nobel Peace Award granted to former US VP Al Gore on the race for US presidency; the Chinese Communist Party Congress; Argentina seeking political support at the IMF Annual Assembly; and implications of the deal reached between the two Koreas.

12. OPINION PIECES AND EDITORIALS

- "Now, clamor for another presidential bid"

Alberto Armendriz, daily-of-record "La Nacisn's" New York-based correspondent, writes (10/13) "Amid an agitated presidential campaign in the US, the Nobel Peace Prize, which was granted yesterday to former US VP Al Gore, has political weight against the current Republican administration and has revived a clamor of supporters for the former presidential candidate to run for president again.

"The award granted to Gore and the UN Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change represents a new blow from the Nobel Committee to the Bush administration.

"As soon as President Bush took over, he rejected the Kyoto Protocol, which was aimed at setting a limit on green gas house emissions, and during the last seven years he has been unwilling to accept scientific evidence proving global warming.

"Already in 2002, when former Democratic President Jimmy Carter received the same award due to his pacifist work, the then head of the Nobel Committee, Gunnar Berge, underscored that it had been 'a kick on the Bush administration's leg' due to its policy against Iraq.

"This time, the current head of the (Nobel Award) Committee, Ole Danbolt Mjoes, avoided directly implying the Bush administration and downplayed the implications the Nobel Award could bring to Washington, where speculation increased on the impact the award will have on Gore's future presidential bid.

"... In fact, there was a turning point this year in the Bush administration's anti-environmental posture - during the latest UN General Assembly it called the representatives of 18 countries producing the largest amount of green gas house emissions to a meeting in Washington with the purpose of reviewing common strategies aimed at lowering their environmental impact and generating cleaner technologies.

"Meanwhile, in the rest of the country, Gore's followers expect the

award will convince the former VP to run for president, thereby competing with Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, the main Democratic candidates so far."

- "China - the social costs of 'market Communism'"

Oscar Ral Cardoso, international analyst of leading "Clarn," comments (10/13) "The current leader Hu Jintao, the head of the Chinese Communist Party and head of the Republic, chose three strategic issues to be tackled at the 17th Congress... although within the rigid limits of an economically heterodox system that imposes a rigid social control.

"The Congress will be attended by more than 2,000 delegates...

"Among the topics promoted by Hu, the Congress will be used to debate the increasing social inequality among the 1.3 billion inhabitants of one of the main economic powers in the world, particularly among the inhabitants of the big cities and the countryside, which still stands for 60 percent of the total population of the country.

"... We are talking about not less than 700 million people, who are mired in poverty with a daily income of six Yuan...

"Many factors have brought the country to this - globalization has affected China the same way it has the rest of the world. Its benefits tend to go almost exclusively to the wealthiest sectors without benefiting the rest of society; the political control of the entire process has left the system vulnerable to the predatory actions of corruption and the emergence of new industries and services has cut agricultural production from 29 percent to 12 percent on GDP in a little over a decade.

"There are less visible reasons. Since 1989, the Chinese Communist Party has paid much more attention to the urban population, which is

fastest and more efficient in staging demonstrations to call the official attention on its problems, than to rural inhabitants...

"... In any event, the truth is that the Chinese Communist Party will not be able to dismiss the topic any longer. Imminent Olympiads are placing China on a showcase that will make its virtues and shortfalls more visible.

"One could wonder whether it is possible that peasants, the same historic force that created the Chinese Communist Party, could now turn against it and its hegemony."

- "Argentina seeks political support from the IMF"

Jorge Luis Velzquez, columnist of leading "Clarn," writes (10/15) "(Argentine) Economy Minister Miguel Peirano will lead the official delegation that will attend the IMF Annual Assembly in Washington. The main objective will be to find out whether the new IMF head, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, will honor some of the promises he made to Nstor Kirchner last month, when he was still an applicant and visited Buenos Aires in search of support.

"If what the Frenchman said was not merely campaigning statements to get elected, Argentina could find support to make progress on a deal with Paris Club creditors in return for having voted for him. Argentina owes some 6.2 billion dollars to 19 countries.

"President Kirchner bets on achieving some progress in his relationship with the IMF, which should later be reinforced by the one who replaces him on December 10... He takes for granted the triumph of his wife Cristina.

"Peirano will seek one basic, although multiple, objective in Washington - to verify whether Strauss-Kahn confirms the changes he proclaimed at the IMF, such as granting Latin American countries more power (at the IMF)...

"If this is so, Argentina could obtain a wink on two issues of concern. First, having IMF support to negotiate a deal with the

Paris Club... Second, obtaining more power in future decisions through a reform of IMF decision-making mechanisms, which will guarantee more voice and vote at the IMF Board..."

- "Who will benefit from the deal between the two Koreas?"

Daily-of-record "La Nacisn" carries an op-ed piece by Carlos Prez Llana, professor at 21st century and Torcuato Di Tella Universities, who opines (10/16) "The deals reached between North and South Korea... have been presented as an achievement of the Bush administration, a compromise from President Kim and a diplomatic accomplishment from China.

"However, this interpretation does not provide with response to multiple questions... First and foremost, President Bush, harassed by the continuously worsening situation in Iraq and merged in a strategic arm-wrestling with Tehran, attempted to profit from the deal between the two Koreas, by presenting it as an example that could well be followed by Iran and a triumph of diplomacy after having pressured the Pyongyang regime.

"Secondly, the North Korean government will hardly support Washington's plans - history speaks for itself...

"Third, North Korea's nuclear plans cannot be paralleled with those of Iran...

"Fourth, truly enough, China has been actively involved in interrupting North Korea's nuclear plan... Nonetheless, every sign indicates that China did not play a leading role...

"... Then, who really benefits from the deal between the two Koreas? While Bush presented the deal as an achievement, conveyed Iranian moderate sectors that there is a choice and showed to the world that there are already two governments that have evolved towards 'realism' (Libya and North Korea), and Washington argues that, in spite of its vulnerable situation in Iraq, the US is still in a position of been respected, when one deepens the analysis, one comes to the conclusion that the one who ends up benefiting from the deal is Kim's regime.

"In fact, North Korea only committed to deactivating a nuclear reactor, although it has said nothing regarding the nuclear bombs it has in store and no commitment has been made on missile production... Instead, Kim did manage to obtain tangible profits - oil supply, lifting of sanctions and release of embargoed funds in

diverse financial hubs.

"In summary, perhaps the most important thing is not the nuclear issue but economy. The two Koreas have a common economic interest - neither of them wants China to end up absorbing North Korea's economy, taking advantage of cheap labor and monopolizing the unexplored mining wealth.

"South Korea, which competes with China and Japan, seeks an exporting outlet in North Korea, while North Korea wants to get out of the Socialist stagnation without jeopardizing its survival."

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